



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer-  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held September 16, 2008, the Board took the following action:

58-A

Supervisor Knabe made the following statement:

“Last Friday’s head-on collision of two trains should never have happened. The victims and families affected deserve and must be given an accurate and complete explanation of what went wrong. Furthermore, it must be made evident to all of us in Southern California that the lessons learned translate into an improved, fail-safe rail traffic management system which can be counted on to avoid future train-to-train collisions, without exception.

“As the National Transportation Safety Board, rail operators, and other responsible entities investigate the crash and improve the system, County government must fulfill its duty to lead an evaluation of the disaster response and use lessons learned to strengthen future preparedness.

“I was taught the importance of this in 1986 as Mayor of Cerritos. In the aftermath of a disaster, it was found that fire fighters and others who attended to the dead and injured were traumatized by the experience and needed help themselves. This insight gave rise to a new disaster management method—the mental health Critical Incident Debriefing program. It is still in use today and has helped countless first responders to deal with the experience so that they go on in their work of helping others. The evaluation process must begin quickly, while memories and records are still fresh.”

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, unanimously carried, the Board took the following actions:

1. Instructed the Chief Executive Officer to evaluate the initial disaster response, in close cooperation with Los Angeles City management and staff and with the support of the County Coroner, Directors of Mental Health, and other participating County Departments, and report on the findings, conclusions and recommendations for at least the following subjects:
  - a) Timeliness;

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58-A (continued)

- b) Speed and effectiveness with which incident command and control was established and maintained;
  - c) Suitability and sufficiency of resources to safely extract and rescue victims;
  - d) Adequacy and effectiveness of communications, including means to respond to concerned family members, press and public; and
  - e) Prior to submission, the report should be reviewed by the Emergency Preparedness Commission for the City and County of Los Angeles;
2. Instructed the County Emergency Medical Services Agency, with oversight and review by the Emergency Medical Services Commission, to provide findings, conclusions and strengthening recommendations on all aspects of the pre-hospital and hospital care response, including on-scene responders, supplies, equipment and communications, the triage and hospital assignment process, suitability and availability of patient transport, and of hospital emergency stations, operating rooms, beds, medical specialists and other patient care personnel; and
3. Requested the leaders of these respective evaluations to coordinate their efforts and submit their reports to the Board as a single package within 90 days.

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Chief Executive Officer  
County Counsel  
Acting Director of Internal Services  
Acting Director of Public Works  
Coroner  
Director of Mental Health  
Director of Public Social Services  
Interim Director of Health Services  
Fire Chief  
Executive Director, Emergency Medical Services Agency  
Executive Director, Emergency Preparedness Commission